GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
SENIOR CITIZENS
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of senior citizens in the country as on January 31,2003;

(b) whether the Government have any specific agency or branch to study and address the issues related to the senior citizens who have become victims of the circumstances created by nuclear family system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated and implemented any welfare schemes for these senior citizens;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the various steps being taken to set up Old Age Homes to ameliorate the condition of the senior citizens in various States of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN PARTS(a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 FOR ANSWE 27.2.2003 REGARDING SENIOR CITIZENS BY DR.JASWANT YADAV AND SHRI SURESH KUMAR.

(a):- State-wise number of Senior Citizens in thecountry as on the 31st January, 2003 is not available. However, the State-wise population of persons aged 60 years and above as per 1991 Census is given in Annexure I enclosed.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Nodal Department for issues relating to Senior Citizens.'

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): The details of the facilities/benefits given to Senior Citizens by different Departments/Ministries are given in Annexure II enclosed.

(f): State wise number of Old Age Homes, for which financial assistance is given by the Ministry of Social Justice is given in Annexure III enclosed.

ANNEXURE-I

Population 60 years and above for India, States and Union Territories as per the 1991 Census

S.No State/UT Population 60 years and above

India # 5,66,81,640

1 Andhra Padesh 45,10,929
2 Arunachal Pradesh 37,560
3 Assam 11,94,460
4 Bihar 54,08,629
5 Goa 82,507
6 Gujarat 26,37,803
7 Haryana 12,67,741
8 Himachal Pradesh 4,20,003
9 Karnataka 31,42,708
10 Kerala 25,67,365

11	Maharashtra	55,10,131
12	Madhya Pradesh	43,89,202
13	Manipur	1,11,105
14	Mizoram	33,186
15	Meghalaya	78,742
16	Nagaland	63,777
17	Orissa	22,80,956
18	Punjab	15,90,059
19	Rajasthan	27,67,870
20	Sikkim	18,508
21	Tamil Nadu	41,61,822
22	Tripura	1,93,295
23	Uttar Pradesh	95,46,943
24	West Bengal	41,15,573
25	A& N Islands	9,546
26	Chandigarh	28,351
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5,943
28	Daman & Diu	6,327
29	Delhi	4,39,520
30	Lakshadweep	2,639
31	Pondicherry	58,440

Excludes J & K where the 1991 Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions prevailing there then

Annexure II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE FACILITIES/BENEFITS GIVEN TO SENIOR. CITIZENS BY DIFFERENT MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS.

Sl.No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens by different Ministries/Departments
1	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	i) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the Senior Citizens. It has announced the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) which seeks to assure older persons that their concerns are national concerns and they will not live unprotected, ignored and marginalized. The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) confers the status of senior citizen to a person who has attained the age of 60 years. The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) inter alia visualizes support for financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, emphasis upon education, training and information needs, provision of appropriate concessions, rebates and discounts etc. to Senior Citizens and special attention to protect and strengthen their legal rights such as to safeguard their life and property. ii) The Ministry is also implementing following schemes for the benefit of Senior Citizens: (a) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/multi-service centres for older persons. Under this Scheme, one time construction grant for old age homes/multi-service centre is provided. (b) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons has been formulated by revising the earlier scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Welfare of the Aged". Under this Scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.

2. Ministry of Rural Development i) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, Central Assistance of Rs. 75/- p.m. is granted to destitute older persons above 65 years. This Scheme has been transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03.
ii) Under the Annapurna Scheme, free food grains (wheat or rice) upto 10 kg. per month are provided to destitute older persons 65 years or above who are otherwise eligible for old age pension but are not receiving it.

3 Ministry of Finance i) Section 88 of Finance Act, 1992, provides income tax rebate of upto Rs. 15,000 or actual tax whichever is less to senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years at any time during the relevant previous year.
ii) Senior Citizens are excluded from "One by Six" scheme for filing the Income Tax Return under proviso Section 139(1).
iii) For Senior Citizen, the deduction in respect of medical insurance premia is upto Rs. 15,000/- under Section 80 D.
iv) RBI has permitted higher rates of interest on saving schemes of Senior Citizens (persons having the age of 65 years and above). Accordingly, w.e.f. 15.05.01, Banks permitted 0.5 per cent higher rate of interest on fixed deposits.
v) Separate counters are marked for Senior Citizens at the time of filing the Income Tax Returns. Senior Citizens of the age of 65 year and above as on 31st March of the assessment year, must be a pensioner and should come personally, get priority while submitting their Income Tax Returns. Besides, on the spot assessment facility is also provided.

4 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare The Ministry (on request from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) has issued instructions to all State Governments to provide for separate queues for older persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination.

5 Ministry of Railways i) Indian Railways provide 30% concession in all classes and trains including Rajdhani/Shatabadi trains for women above 60 and men above 65 years of age.
ii) Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/ cancellation of tickets.

6 Ministry of Civil Aviation i) Indian Airlines/Jet Airways is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 65years (men and women)
ii) Sahara India Airlines is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 62years (men and women)

7 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings (ASTRU).

8 MCD, Delhi MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter for senior citizens for submission of property tax.

9 Miscellaneous i) Telephone connection is given on priority to senior citizens of age 65 years and above by the Ministry of Telecommunications.
ii) On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Annexure-III

STATEWISE TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND OLD AGE HOMES

S.No	Name of the State	No.of NGOs	OAH
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150	117
2.	Assam	15	7
3.	Bihar	1	1
4.	Gujarat	5	3
5.	Haryana	20	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0
7	J&K	8	4
8.	Karnataka	47	49
9.	Kerala	3	2
10.	MP	7	6
11.	Maharashtra	23	7
12.	Manipur	38	24
13.	Nagaland	3	1
14.	Orissa	59	44
15.	Punjab	16	6
16.	Rajasthan	5	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	63	49
18.	Tripura	3	2
19.	Uttar Pradesh	64	35
20.	West Bengal	57	35
21.	Delhi	10	0
22.	Pondicherry	4	3
23.	Chandigarh	1	0
	Total	603	402